

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03048 01 OF 02 162157Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05

ARA-10 EB-08 /130 W

-----109470 162207Z /15

P 162141Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7746

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 03048

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, CA, XA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN VIEWS ON AFRICA

1. MICHAEL SHENSTONE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM A TALK IN WASHINGTON WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND FROM PARIS FOR BILATERALS ON AFRICA WITH THE FRENCH, CONVEYED TO US THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS JUNE 15.

1. ZAIRE. THE GOC WAS "NOT CRITICAL" OF THE WESTERN RESCUE OPERATION IN SHABA; IT RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. MUCH MORE DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, IS THE PROBLEM OF DETERMINING WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PROVIDE SECURITY IN THE LONG-RUN FOR THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03048 01 OF 02 162157Z

REGION AND TO ACHIEVE INTERNAL REFORMS IN ZAIRE. THE GOC HAS NO INDEPENDENT MEANS FOR ASSESSING THE DEGREE OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE KOLWEZI INCURSION, BUT SHENSTONE INDICATED HE FOUND PLAUSIBLE THE VIEWS OF ONE OF THE FRENCH EXPERTS ATTENDING THE RECENT GOC-GOF BILATERALS IN PARIS. THIS EXPERT CONTENDS THAT THE CUBANS SAW THE SITUATION IN SHABA AS A CLASSICAL MARXIST

CASE IN WHICH THE (BLACK) PROLETARIAT WAS BEING EXPLOITED BY (WHITE) CAPITALISTS. THE CUBANS, THEREFORE, ENCOURAGED THE ATTACK IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THE NATIVE POPULATION WOULD RISE UP AND SUPPORT THE INSURGENCY. OBVIOUSLY, ACCORDING TO THIS EXPERT, THE CUBANS SERIOUSLY MISJUDGED THE SITUATION.

3. SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA. THERE ARE ESSENTIALLY TWO CATEGORIES: (A) THOSE COUNTRIES IN WHICH THERE ARE VARYING NUMBERS OF TECHNICIANS AND MILITARY ADVISORS WHOSE PRESENCE MUST BE A MATTER OF CONCERN, BUT ABOUT WHOM THERE IS LITTLE THE WEST CAN DO IN THE SHORT-RUN; AND (B) ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA WHERE THERE IS THE MASSIVE PRESENCE OF CUBAN MILITARY WHO HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AND WHOSE EXISTENCE IS A POTENTIAL THREAT TO NEIGHBORING AREAS. HOWEVER WORRISOME THIS PRESENCE IS, WESTERN GOVERNMENTS MUST MAINTAIN A SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE AND NOT OVER-REACT. THEY SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT THE SOVIET-CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THESE COUNTRIES HAS NOT BEEN AN UNMITIGATED SUCCESS AND THAT, IN ETHIOPIA PARTICULARLY, THE SOVIETS AND THE CUBANS, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THEIR LOCAL CLIENTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE SERIOUS DISAGREEMENTS ABOUT ERITREA AND ABOUT THE FUTURE NATURE OF THE ETHIOPIAN REGIME. THE SOVIETS ARE ALSO BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT THEY CANNOT EXPLOIT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 03048 01 OF 02 162157Z

WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING THEIR OVER-ALL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WEST.

4. AFRICAN SECURITY FORCE. THOUGH CANADA DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE RECENT PARIS MEETING ON THE RECOVERY EFFORT IN ZAIRE, AND HAD NO DESIRE TO DO SO, THE CANADIANS HAVE CONVEYED TO THE FRENCH THEIR SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE FORMATION OF A PAN-AFRICAN SECURITY FORCE. IN PARTICULAR, THE GOC IS CONCERNED THAT SUCH A FORCE WOULD SERIOUSLY DIVIDE THE AFRICAN STATES.

5. GENERAL WESTERN POSTURE. IN THE CANADIAN VIEW, THE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS OBVIOUSLY CANNOT OVERLOOK THE SECURITY PROBLEMS IN AFRICA, BUT THEY MUST ALSO MOVE ON TWO OTHER FRONTS: (A) CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO THE POORER AFRICAN STATES, INCLUDING THOSE WITH RADICAL REGIMES; AND (B) REMOVE "THE ALBATROSS OF SOUTH AFRICA" FROM THEIR NECKS BY TAKING EVEN STRONGER ACTIONS IN THE TRADE AND INVESTMENT FIELDS AND BY CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM.

6. COMMENT: SHENSTONE'S COMMENTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH SIGNALS THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OTHER CANADIAN OFFICIALS REGARDING AFRICA. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE GOC FEELS THAT IT IS PLAYING A USEFUL ROLE THROUGH ITS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, BUT THAT IT IS EXCEEDINGLY LEERY ABOUT BECOMING IN ANY WAY INVOLVED WITH SECURITY MATTERS IN AFRICA, EXCEPT IN CASE OF NAMIBIA WHERE WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN A PEACEKEEPING OPERATION. PART OF THE REASON FOR THE CANADIAN CAUTION ON SECURITY ISSUES IS THAT GOC HAS TRADITIONALLY ATTEMPTED TO STAND SOMEWHAT APART FROM OTHER WESTERN, INDUSTRIALIZED GOVERNMENTS IN ITS DEALINGS WITH THE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03048 02 OF 02 162158Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 ARA-10
EB-08 AID-05 /130 W
-----109478 162209Z /15

P 162141Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7747
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 03048

LDC'S. FINALLY, WHILE CANADIANS ARE CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA GENERALLY, THEIR PRIMARY INTEREST SEEMS TO LIE IN WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
DUEMLING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OTTAWA03048
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780252-0942
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780650/aaaabrgl.tel
Line Count: 165
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e9cc5087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2321834
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN VIEWS ON AFRICA
TAGS: PEPR, CA, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9cc5087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014